

**ST EBBA'S  
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EYEMOUTH**

**November 2013**



**Times of worship**

Every Sunday: 11am Eucharist in church

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: 10.00am Eucharist in the parsonage

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#### Editor's note

St Ebba's is busy this month. Calling Sunday on 17 November is the last date by which nomination forms for the new Ministry Team must be submitted. Turn to page 7 for Tim's answers to frequently asked questions about the calling nomination forms. On 24 November, the AGM will be held during morning worship. Everyone is urged to attend.

Although November brings cold, damp days, Joan T shares the magical growth, hard work and pleasure of her allotment garden ... a place to be 'nearer God's heart' (p 3).

This is also a month of anniversaries as Samaritans celebrate sixty years of (p 11) while we are reminded to pray during Prisons Week for all in the prison system (p 12). And Brian Payne recalls the impact of his visit to the Berlin Wall (p 10).

A new national Advent campaign aims to address some startling statistics about Christmas (p 4) – though Channel 5's new series may help spread the Word. And thanks to Jennifer for sharing a beautiful African prayer/song (p 9).

Thanks as ever for this month's contributions and remember that your next newsletter will be a double issue (Dec/Jan).

*Pat*

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## A Good Year



In February I took over a disastrously neglected allotment. A gently sloping plot of waterlogged clay soil on exposed land above Eyemouth.

Its previous keeper had struggled with it for 2 or 3 years and given up. Through the weed ridden expanse poked the occasional stem of some unidentifiable plant. Here and there an ancient blackened potato could be found. Other than that all was bleak. At the bottom of the slope ran a three foot wide water filled trench only navigable by makeshift plank bridge.

For the first few weeks I did little other than go and look at it, wondering afresh after each rain sodden day how to cope, where to begin? Like a needy child this plot began to endear itself to me. I decided to devote the season to rescuing it.

After countless mole hill, and other nutrient gathering trips, bartering for a ton of well rotted cow manure from a local farmer and whole days of backbreaking digging and raking I was really liking the look of my patch of earth. A friend kindly dug a trench and put in a drain for the standing water which I celebrated by buying my first seed potatoes!

From there on there was no looking back! Soon carrots, turnips, peas, broad beans, spinach, broccoli, beetroot, courgettes, rhubarb and strawberries were establishing themselves. Of course with all the natural goodies I had imported came the undesirables, but I now so loved this plot a day's weeding became a joy! The satisfaction of protecting my plants and giving them the best conditions in which to prosper.

Friends complaining I was “never at home” soon began visiting my garden, gathering some produce for the pot and sitting in the sun to soak up the heady scent of my luxuriant sweet peas.....

Hymn Writer and Poet Dorothy Frances Gurney’s most oft quoted lines are.....

The kiss of the sun for pardon  
The song of the birds for mirth  
One is nearer God’s heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.

Joan T.

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### SAVING CHRISTMAS



*New national Advent campaign aims to put Jesus ‘back’ into Christmas*

This year the UK has reached a tipping point: a recent survey has found that 51 per cent of people now say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. And just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story in any depth. 36 per cent of children do not know whose birthday is being celebrated during the festival.

And so it is that ChurchAds.net, the group behind the annual Christmas advertising poster campaign, has teamed up with a number of leading churches this autumn in order to reverse this trend, and ‘save’ Christmas.

‘Christmas Starts with Christ’ will run from 1st December to Christmas Day. See more at [www.christmasstartswithchrist.com](http://www.christmasstartswithchrist.com).

## NOVEMBER DIARY

- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>**            **ALL SAINTS ALL SOULS**  
11am Eucharist (1982)  
Readings            Daniel 7 vs 1-3  
                          Psalm 149  
                          Ephesians 1 vs 11-23  
                          Luke 6 vs 20-36
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup>**            **10am Eucharist**  
                          Followed by Mothers Union
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup>**            **PENTECOST 25**  
                          **REMEMBRANCE**  
11am Eucharist (1970)  
Readings            Haggai 1 vs 15b – 2 vs 9  
                          Psalm 145 vs 1-5, 17-21  
                          2 Thessalonians 2 vs 1-5, 13-17  
                          Luke 20 vs 27-38
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**            **PENTECOST 26**  
                          **Calling Sunday**  
11am Eucharist (1982)  
Readings            Isaiah 65 vs 17-25  
                          Psalm 98  
                          2 Thessalonians 3 vs 6-13  
                          Luke 21 vs 5-19
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup>**            **LAST PENTECOST**  
                          **ST EBBA'S AGM**  
11am Eucharist (1970)  
Readings            Jeremiah 23 VS 1-6  
                          Colossians 1 vs 11-20  
                          Luke 23 vs 33-43

**Leaders for November services will be:**

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Richard Oldale
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila Cox
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Shelmerdine
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Shelmerdine

**Intercessors and Readers – November**

	<b>Server</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Reader</b>
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Richard Oldale	Jan Simpson	Debbie Higson
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Oldale	Brian Payne	Noreen Thompson
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Shelmerdine	David Smout	Frankie Taylor
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Shelmerdine	Tim Morris	Irene Morris

**NOTE YOUR DIARY**

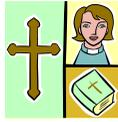
Please note that St Ebba's AGM will be held as part of the Sunday Service on 24<sup>th</sup> November. All members of the congregation are urged to attend.

**DON'T FORGET!**

Don't forget to complete the form enclosed with October's newsletter with the names of any members of the congregation (lay and ordained) you wish to nominate to serve on the Ministry Team in different roles.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR COMPLETED FORM SEALED IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO THE 11AM SERVICE ON SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER OR SEND/DELIVER IT TO THE PARSONAGE BEFORE THAT DATE.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CALLING NOMINATION FORMS



*As people have considered how to complete the Calling Sunday forms over the past few weeks, a number of questions have been raised*

- *Can I nominate myself?*  
There is no reason why you may not do this if you believe that God is calling you to a particular ministry. This has been a time-tested process in the church for many years.
- *Should I ask people for permission to nominate them?*  
This is not necessary but you may wish so to do. In the end your nominations are between you and God alone. Those nominated will be given the opportunity to respond as God guides them. But remember sometimes the most reluctant people become the best ministers (e.g. Moses, Jeremiah).
- *Do I have to put a nomination against every ministry position?*  
Not at all. God may guide you towards one person for one post or give you many names to put down: just do what God tells you.
- *Can I nominate more than one person for each ministry?*  
Certainly. Some ministry positions lend themselves to having a number of people called to them (e.g. Preachers) while others are more singular (e.g. ecumenical co-ordinator)

- *Should I sign the Nomination Form?*  
This is entirely up to you. There is no compulsion to identify yourself in this way but some people may wish to do so.
- *What if I am not sure whether to nominate someone or not?*  
Do not feel that you have to rush into filling in the form – plenty of time has been left for reflection and to hear God’s voice in this process. By and large if you are uncertain, it might be better to put a name down. If they are not God’s person, then that will be made clear to them when they are invited to accept or reject nomination.
- *What if I cannot be there on Calling Sunday (November 17<sup>th</sup>)*  
Please post your nomination form to Dean Fostekew so that it gets to him before that date or put it in the “postbox” at the back of the church before the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- *What if I am not sure about the whole process?*  
Please feel free to ask one of the present Ministry Team or phone Dean Fostekew (0131 346 4127) for help.

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**Coming soon – The Bible – on Channel 5**



A 10 hour mini-series that brings the Bible to life is coming to the UK this autumn – having already been watched by more than 100 million people in the States earlier this year.

Produced by Roma Downey, an Irish actress and producer and her husband Mark Burnett, an Emmy-winning producer, The Bible Series features stories from both the Old and New Testaments.

## AFRICAN PRAYER – SONG



*Thanks to Jennifer who obtained permission to reproduce the beautiful words of this prayer/ song.*

The first verse is a prayer from Africa and comes from Ray Simpson's book 'Celtic Daily Light'. It was used – and added to as a song - by Graham Cansdale.

### **AS TOOLS COME TO BE SHARPENED**

As tools come to be sharpened by the blacksmith  
So may we come, O Lord.  
As sharpened tools go back to their owners,  
So may we go back to our everyday life  
To be used by YOU.

As fruit trees are pruned by the gardener  
We need pruning O Lord.  
As trees once pruned bear fruit for their owner,  
So may we bear fruit in Christ-like living  
Bringing glory to YOU.

As work soiled clothes come for washing,  
So may we come O Lord.  
As clothes freshly washed go back to their owners,  
So may we freshly cleansed go back to our living  
Shining adverts for YOU.



## OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS



*Continuing his global series, in this month of Remembrance for all war dead, Brian Payne recalls his visit to the Berlin Wall.*



If it seems that these articles are often of a military viewpoint, it is because many of the places I have seen were when I was a soldier. Our thoughts turn towards the past in this month of Remembrance Sunday.

Berlin. The name has subliminal connotations to anyone of a certain age. The hub of one fascist dictatorship, it then became the divided city, enfolded within the East German subject state of another ruthless dictatorship. We know what it looked like in 1945; smashed, chaotic and seemingly broken beyond all mending. Then after 1961, The Wall ran through the city, jinking to and fro to the vagaries of the boundaries drawn up between the Allied Powers.

In September 1988, in the twilight, I stood on the steps of the Reichstag looking out into the wooded park of the Tiergarten. The former German Parliament building was still a shell, partially restored and watertight. The Berlin Wall ran behind it, and the war time damage had been repaired by patching the scarred stones.

It was difficult to believe that the thousands and thousands of bullet marks, and shrapnel scars had occurred without the building falling into dust. The night was cool and drizzling, with a mist forming from the River Spee to the right. Either side of the hulk of a building were strong arc lights, on the East German side of the wall. It was one of the direst, unwelcoming and frankly spooky places I have ever seen. I left thankfully, having ticked it off the list of places to see, knowing that the maelstrom of fighting in April and May 1945 had left thousands of dead within sight of where I had been

standing. The Reichstag seemed doomed to be a further memorial to the Gotterdammerung of Hitler, whose bunker still existed then, not far away.

And then, unbelievably, The Wall came down. Within two years, Germany had reunited. Between 1990 and 1999, amid fierce debate, the Reichstag was rebuilt under the direction of a British Architect. The building now houses the German parliament again, and is now one of the most visiting tourist attractions in Germany.

I would never have believed the change would be so profound on that September night in 1988. But now the thousands of the dead and missing of Berlin have a memorial of hope rather than despair.

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### **Samaritans celebrate 60 years**



*2nd November, sees the 60th anniversary of the very first phone call to the Samaritans.*

The idea for a confidential crisis phone-line that desperate people could use came from a vicar, Chad Varah, following the suicide of a 14 year old girl in one of his parishes. Appalled by the senseless loss of life, an idea was born and he launched a “999 for the suicidal”.

The first call to the new service was on 2nd November 1953. From that first call the workload increased so rapidly that Chad Varah had to turn to volunteers for help and he officially handed over the task of supporting the callers to the volunteers.

And so Samaritans as we know it today was born. The service today still operates on Chad’s guiding principles of confidential, non-judgmental support.



## **Prisons Week - 17 -23 November**

Prisoners are easy to forget about – after all, they live behind thick walls and high fences, and are never seen. But inside prisons there are tens of thousands of damaged people in desperate need of God’s love and grace in their lives. Outside prisons there are hundreds of thousands of family members of prisoners, who are totally innocent, yet whose lives have also been badly damaged.

In 1975 Prisoners’ Week was launched by a number of prison chaplains and other Christians who were involved in prisons work. The aim was to encourage churches across the country to use the third Sunday in November to pray for prisoners and their families. By 1995 it was clear that those who work in prison care also needed support, and so it became Prisons Week – remembering ALL those involved in the field of prison care, prisoners families, victims of crime, prison staff and volunteers.

So on the third Sunday of this month, will you pray for everyone connected to the prison system?

The Prisons Week Prayer:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another.

Help us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

## Laugh and the World Laughs with You .....

### BARGAIN WITH GOD



A man was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, he prayed in desperation: "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky."

Miraculously, a moment later a parking place appeared. The man looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

### QUOTABLES WITH A TWIST



Even if you're on the right track, you can still get hit by a train.

The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

I think therefore I am...confused.

## NOTEBOOK



The Mothers' Union will meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parsonage after the 10.00am Eucharist.

*If you are in hospital and would like us to know and/or to visit, under the current regulations you have to specifically ask the hospital to inform us.*

Ecumenical Groups in Eyemouth meet every second and fourth Monday between 7.30 and 9pm. Everyone welcome.

### CALLING NOMINATION FORMS

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COMPLETED FORM SEALED IN THE ENVELOPE SUPPLIED TO THE 11AM SERVICE ON SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER OR SEND/DELIVER IT TO THE PARSONAGE BEFORE THAT DATE.**

### Double Issue Reminder

Next month's newsletter will be a double issue for December and January. Please send any material for both these months to the editor before 15 December.



If you want to keep up with what's happening here and across the Borders, you will find the minutes of our own Vestry meetings and the Borders Area Council meeting in the files at the back of the church.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

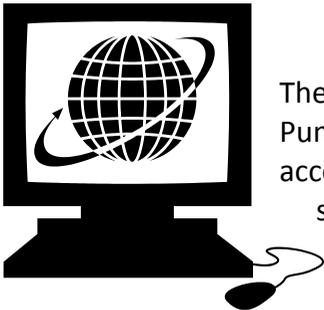
Priests	the Revd Sheila Cox	01890 771764
	the Revd Jennifer Edie	01289 386338
	the Revd David Smout	01890 771220
	the Revd Tim Morris	01289 386615
Lay Rep	Richard Oldale	01890 750939
Alt Lay Rep	David Garside	01890 751159
Priest Warden	Joan Shelmerdine	01890 752829
People's Warden	Richard Oldale	01890 750939
Administrator	Joan Thomas	
Treasurer	David Garside	01890 751159

St Ebba's Church, Fort View, Paxton Terrace, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL

St Ebba's Parsonage, Beach Avenue, Eyemouth, TD14 5EL

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please hand copy for the next issue of the magazine to one of the Wardens or send to the Editor (address inside front cover) **by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month**. The Editor welcomes all contributions and is grateful to those who helped this month.



The Editor would also like to thank Parish Pump, a site on the World Wide Web accessed via the Internet, for material supplied for use in parish magazines and newsletters.



Without thought for his own safety,  
George visited his sick parishoners.